

August 19, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are writing this letter today in response to your call for comments regarding AT&T's proposed acquisition of T-Mobile USA. As the leading chamber of commerce and economic development group in south central Wisconsin, we at Forward Janesville believe that improved broadband access is critical for small metropolitan and rural areas. This merger will greatly expand the next generation of high-speed mobile broadband technology (4G LTE) to nearly 97 percent of the American population. That includes a significant number of rural southern Wisconsin communities that do not currently have access to this technology.


The expansion of wireless broadband networks fuels economic growth across sectors and industries. Connected Nation has reported that increased broadband adoption overall could help create or retain an additional 2.4 million jobs per year nationwide and account for more than \$134 billion in economic benefits. The availability of mobile broadband is a critical component for drawing in new businesses and growing the ones already established here in Rock County.

Approval of this proposed merger is important for our business community and our continued vibrancy. Businesses without access to broadband are at a real disadvantage in the global marketplace. Mobile applications and solutions are becoming a larger part of successful enterprises, resulting in cost-effective efficiencies that businesses of all sizes can appreciate and use.

And the economic benefits aren't strictly business-driven: governments, schools, universities, hospitals and other healthcare institutions can greatly benefit by integrating next-generation mobile broadband into their operations. Wireless broadband technology is important for helping today's students become tomorrow's community and business leaders.

In short, the combination of AT&T and T-Mobile is good for Rock County. The merger's benefits include a better quality network, expanded access to next generation mobile broadband technology, economic growth and job creation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Cunningham
Vice President

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn